



Preparing for the Governor's Honors Program Interview

GENERAL TIPS

- **Know what to expect and be prepared.** Review the GHP interview information guide for your area, which can be found on the GHP website (gosa.georgia.gov/governors-honors-program). It lists what interviewers expect to see and how they expect to find it. If there is anything you do not understand, ask your nominating teacher and/or counselor for help. Knowing when to ask for help is actually a prime GHP trait.
- **Get a good night's sleep — and eat a good breakfast (or lunch).**
- **You should plan to arrive 20-30 minutes early to your interview to allow time to check in.** Remember, the interstates around Atlanta often have traffic, so factor in travel time for the day of your interview.
- **Your parent(s) may wait on location for you to complete the interview.** Parents will be asked to wait in a “parent area” where a GHP representative will provide information and answer questions about the program.
- **Dress neatly and appropriately.** Extremely casual wear may suggest to your interviewer that you are not serious about getting into the program.
- **Read up on your subject outside of class.** This reading may include books, magazine articles, blogs, etc. Be up-to-date in your field.
- **Be yourself.** Give real answers, not answers you think the interviewer wants to hear. Insincerity is worse than an “unpopular” opinion.
- **Have a conversation with your interviewer(s).** Take a moment before beginning your answer. It is acceptable for you to think about what you're going to say before beginning. Make sure that you mention all the wonderful information that you put on the application.



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INTERVIEW TIPS

- **Practice answering these questions — out loud!** Get a friend, parent, or teacher to do a practice interview with you. (At least one of these questions is sure to show up in your actual interview.)
 - Why do you want to attend GHP?
 - What will you contribute to GHP?
 - What scares you the most about GHP?
 - What have you recently read or done about your subject in the classroom?
 - What have you recently read or done about your subject out of the classroom?
 - Are your grades an accurate reflection of your potential?
 - Which one of your activities is most rewarding? Why?
 - What has been your biggest achievement?
 - What's your opinion on [recent current event]?
 - How did you spend last summer?
 - If you could change one thing about your high school, what would it be?
 - What reasons can you give for why you should be selected over other students?
 - How do you react to failure?
 - What happens when you're not the best in the room?
 - Describe your dream project in your area.
 - What questions do you have about GHP?
- **Take notes on your answers.** Write down your best answers, not to memorize them but to train your brain to respond to the same question if asked in the interview. You know how you always have things you wished you had said? Now is your chance to fill in that gap before the real interview.
- **Note that these are generic questions.** You can expect to be asked questions about your area of nomination as well.
- **Also in your practice interview:**
 - Practice shaking hands.
 - Practice sitting up straight—no folded arms, please—and looking your interviewers in the eye.
 - Practice body language—leaning forward to show interest, using minimal hand gestures to avoid distracting from your words, and avoid fidgeting if you tend to move around when nervous.
 - It is always a good thing to thank your interviewers for the opportunity when you are finished.